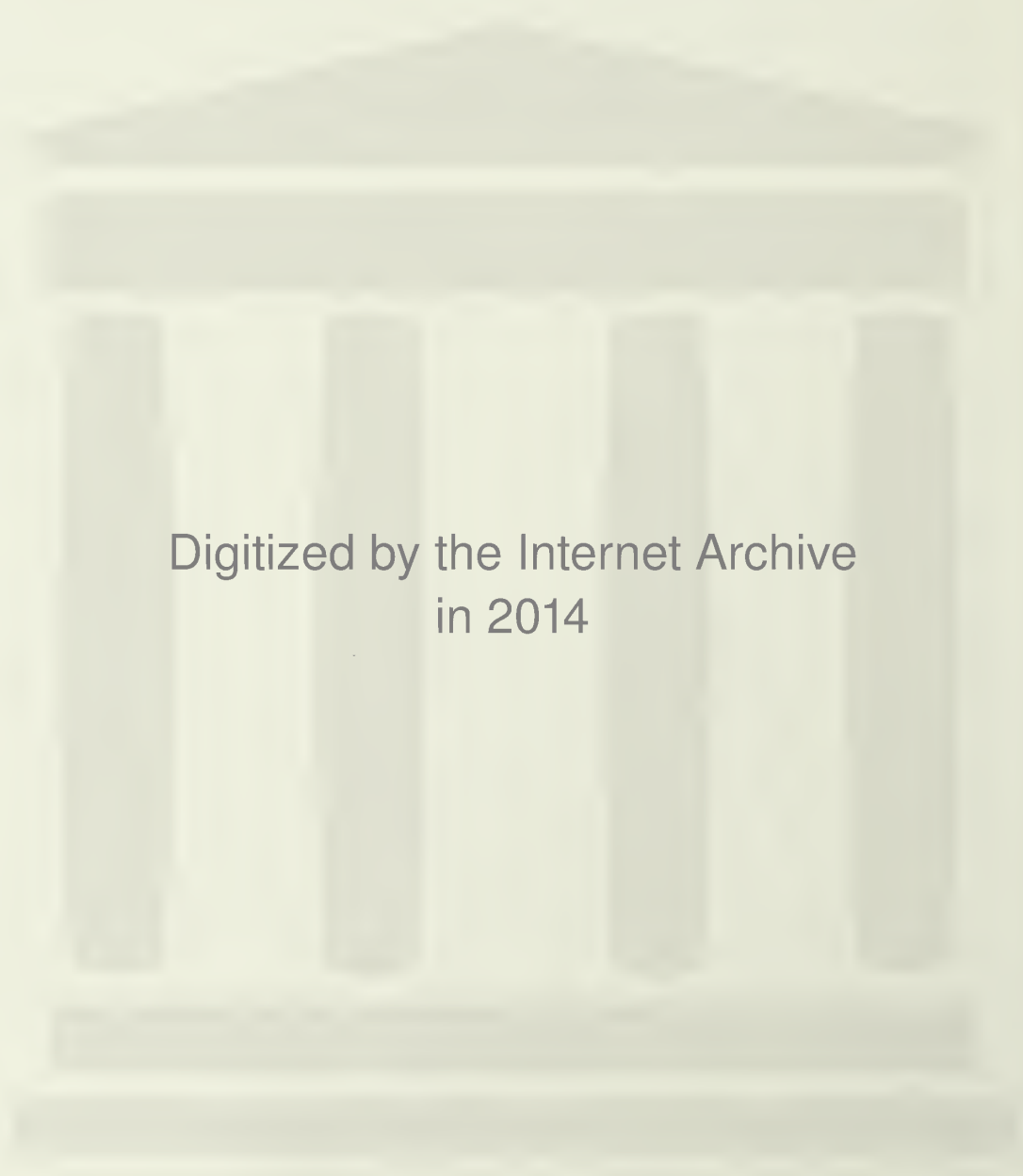


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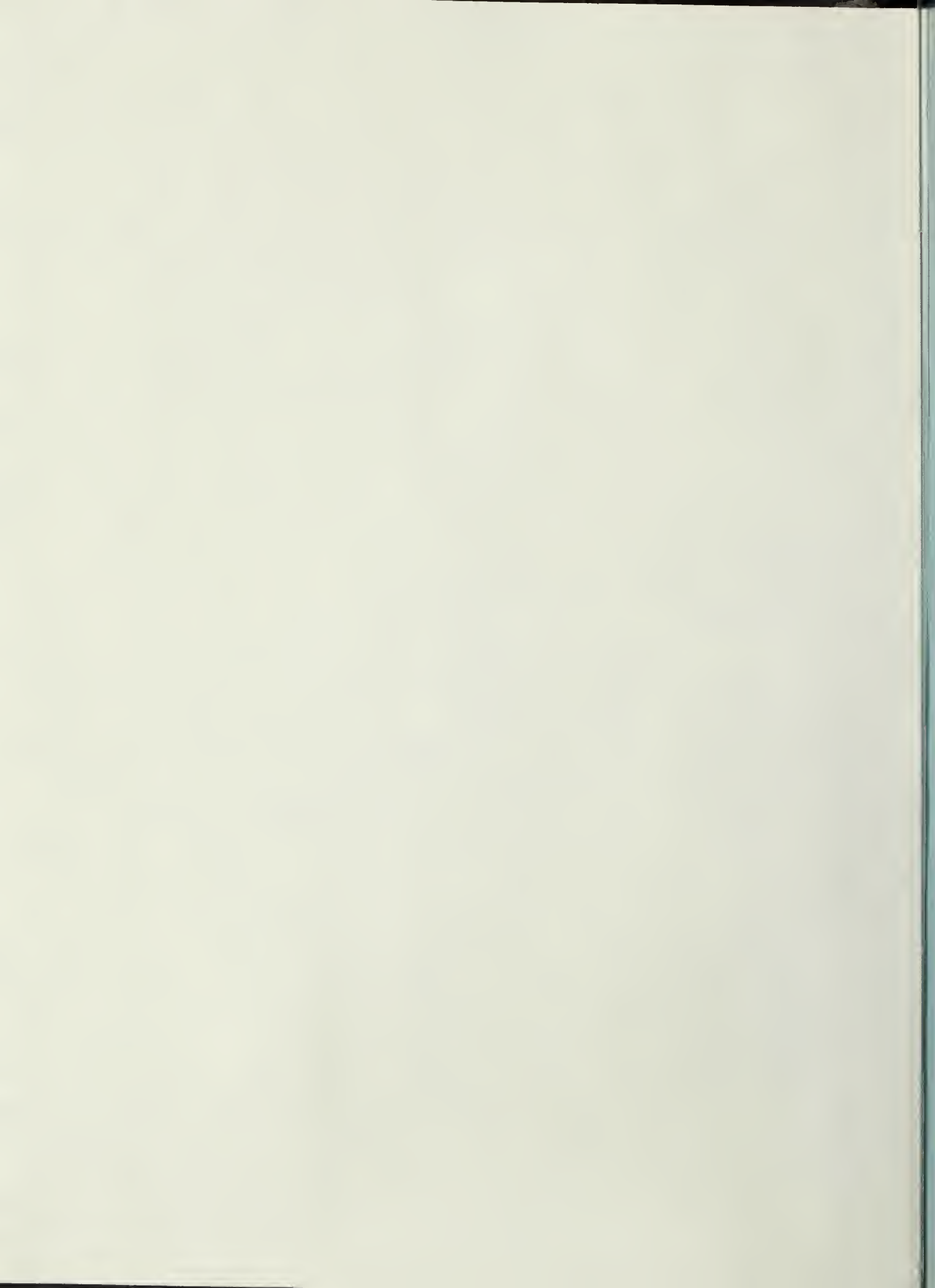


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MIDDLESEX COUNTY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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Scott Harshbarger
District Attorney

CHILD SUPPORT

ENFORCEMENT UNIT

Annual Report

1986-1987

BRIAN BURKE
DIRECTOR
CHILD SUPPORT
ENFORCEMENT UNIT

"...it is the unquestioned obligation of each parent in the Commonwealth to contribute as much as possible to the support of his or her children."

Scott Harshbarger
District Attorney
Middlesex County

The Middlesex County District Attorney's Office has one of the most comprehensive child support enforcement programs in the Commonwealth. It is comprised of several full-time attorneys and investigators. The program is designed to adjudicate child support cases in the criminal courts of Middlesex County, and to locate absent parents who fail to appear in court and neglect their legal and moral responsibilities to support their children.

The Commonwealth's commitment to aggressively enforcing the child support laws through the Department of Public Welfare and the Department of Revenue has helped the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office to have one of the most effective compliance efforts in the Commonwealth.

The second year of operation for the Middlesex County Child Support Enforcement program is now complete and has built upon the success of the past. This year 1,005 absent parents who were not participating in the judicial system and who where neglecting their responsibilities to their families were forced to confront the issue of non-support. This brings the aggregate total for two years to 1,877 default warrant removals. The overwhelming majority of these parents would still be neglecting their families if it were not for the efforts of this Child Support Enforcement Unit.

In the course of the second year of this project the District Attorney's Office was able to continue to identify, locate and apprehend absent parents who neglect their families. One thousand twenty-nine cases were referred to the Unit and undertaken by the three investigators. This brings the aggregate two-year total to 2,425 cases that were handled by the Unit, which has achieved an impressive net removal rate of 77.40 percent for a two-year period. The success of the Unit is directly attributable to the hard work and dedication of the investigators.

It has always been the Unit's strategy to increase collections through its comprehensive efforts in the serving of default warrants. The results of the program have continued to improve. An average of 30 arrests a month were made, while expanding the energies of the Unit to civil and probate cases.

The serving of warrants has brought a wide variety of results. Most often the absent parent produces large amounts of money resulting in immediate payments to the Department of Public Welfare for past due support.

In the first year of operation a single payment of \$6,000 was paid to the Department of Public Welfare by an absent parent who was arrested. This year payments of \$2,000, \$3,000 and \$4,000 were made in addition to the numerous cases with payments ranging from \$100 - to \$1,500.

The success and aggressiveness of the Unit has produced secondary results. Initial collection efforts are now taken much more seriously by those involved. Absent parents now appear to believe it makes sense to show a good faith effort to comply with the court order as a means of avoiding being arrested in front of friends and neighbors and possibly being sentenced to jail, even if just a few days.

While the specific accomplishments of the Unit are many, it has been very difficult to improve upon the arrest made last year which received widespread attention. It involved an individual who had won a substantial amount of money from the State Lottery's "Megabucks" game and was \$1,100.00 in arrears. His arrest was noted in many media sources throughout the Commonwealth. Media attention to these arrests helps underscore the commitment of the District Attorney to strict enforcement and, in each case, a message is sent to thousands of absent parents that they could be next. For this year there has been

more local publicity attendant to arrests and it has been vital in the success of the Unit.

Chapter 310 of the Acts of 1986 radically changed the procedures for establishing and enforcing support orders and presented several new areas in which Unit could expand. All of which have required extensive attention for the development of policies and procedures between agencies.

In the past the District Attorney's Office had a limited role in civil cases and virtually no role in the probate court. This has changed under C. 310. Assistant District Attorneys are handling civil cases when paternity is contested. All other child support matters in the civil court are handled pro se by the custodial parent or by caseworkers when AFDC is involved. The changes under Chapter 310 created the need for new procedures to be developed to review stagnant probate cases to determine if criminal action is warranted under C. 273 §§ 1 or 15.

The most significant effect C. 310 has had on the Unit is in the area of defaults. The civil process has made it much easier for the court to establish orders and wage assignments without the appearance of the absent parent. Therefore there has been a reduction of defaults by 28.26% from year one. However, the Unit improved upon the total number of default removals by 133 over year one.

Because of the success of the program and the effects of C. 310, awareness of the problem of child support has reached an

unparalleled level within the judicial system and within the law enforcement community of Middlesex County. Courts are more attentive to the needs of custodial parents and local police are more willing to serve warrants on non-support cases.

Chapter 310 has made it possible for the resources of the Unit, which have the full force of the District Attorney's Office, to be available for virtually all similarly situated custodial parents.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The efforts of the past year have paid very real dividends in making the child support system more credible. One-thousand five absent parents who would have otherwise been able to avoid the courts and the responsibility to support their families are now either supporting their families or in the process of having their disputes resolved. This is directly attributable to the cooperation of both the Department of Public Welfare and the District Attorney's Office without which such an effective program would not have been developed to serve the public. Because of this interagency cooperation the Child Support Enforcement Unit should be viewed as a model for other District Attorneys to follow in their efforts to combat this serious problem of child support.

The Unit is particularly proud of the following program results:

- * In the first year of operation Department of Public Welfare collected \$274,462.62.^{1/}
- * The program cost D.P.W. \$72,112.81.
- * In the second year of operation the D.P.W. collected \$146,113 for the first three quarters.^{1/}

^{1/} These figures only represent welfare cases which is approximately 50% of the case load. Data for Non-Welfare cases is not available. Therefore the actual figure is much higher.

- * The second year of operation cost D.P.W. \$43,743.90 for the first three quarters.
- * In the first year of operation the Unit received 1,396 default warrants.
- * The Unit successfully removed 872 default warrants for a 62.46% net removal rate.
- * In the second year of operation the Unit received 1,029 default warrants.
- * The Unit successfully removed 1,005 default warrants for a 97.66% net removal rate. A 32.50% improvement over last year.
- * The Unit was able to receive a commitment from the Department of Revenue to fund the investigative branch of the Unit for a third year.
- * The Unit removed 133 more default warrants than the previous year.
- * It has been responsive to the needs of individuals and the enforcement needs of the Department of Public Welfare.
- * It has been an effective resource for many people who were in need of information on how to proceed to obtain child support.
- * It has created a process to aggressively pursue absent parents from probate court.
- * It has been effective in sending a message to the public that people who neglect their legal and moral responsibility to their families will not be tolerated.
- * The Unit was responsible for the creation of a training manual for Assistant District Attorneys.
- * It has published and distributed the Child Support Enforcement Pamphlet.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT

ANNUAL STATISTICS 1985-86

	<u>Defaults</u>	<u>Removals</u>
July-September	365	231
October-December	309	199
January-March	310	229
229		
April-June	<u>412</u>	<u>213</u>
Total	1,396	872

ANNUAL STATISTICS 1986-87

	<u>Defaults</u>	<u>Removals</u>
July-September	283	220
October-December	279	223
January-March	231	264
April-June	<u>236</u>	<u>298</u>
Total	1,029	1,005

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Several new efforts are planned to expand and improve the Unit in its third year of operation:

First, the continued development of an outreach program is designed to inform the public of the resources available to them and the effects of recent legislation on child support cases in general. A pamphlet was developed last year and circulated throughout Middlesex County. It was successful in bringing to the attention of many people the resources of this Unit. A new pamphlet should be produced with an added emphasis on the effects of C. 310 and this Unit's expanded role.

An increased emphasis will be placed on speaking engagements at organizations concerned with child support such as Parents Without Partners, Concerned Fathers and the Singles Club.

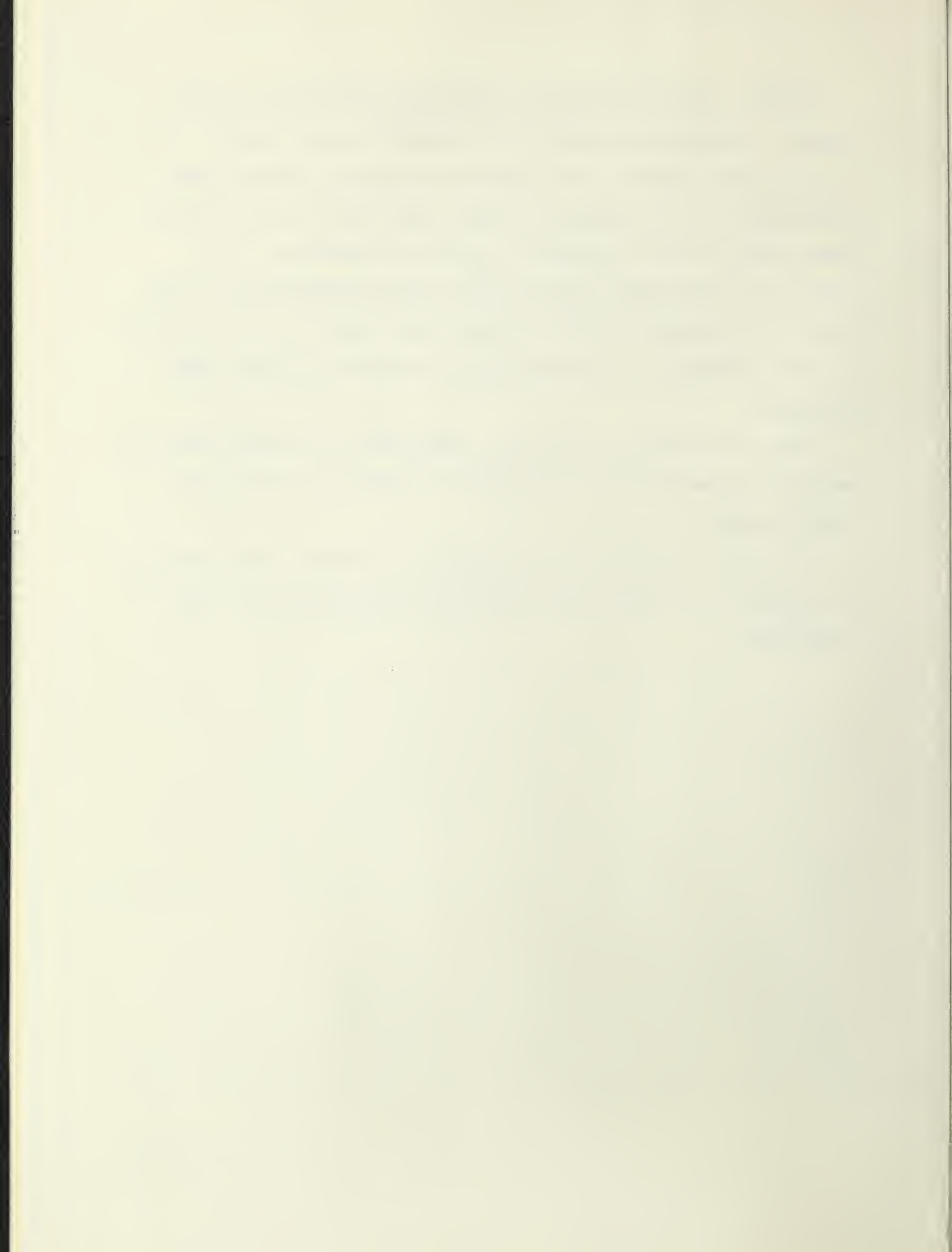
Second, the development of a pro se packet and video is for custodial parents who intend to file complaints for non-support. Chapter 310 has made it simpler for custodial parents to represent themselves. This information will be extremely helpful for individuals to prepare, be well organized and familiarize themselves with the judicial system and the pro se process.

Third, there is a clear need to continue to improve the working relationship with the clerks and probation offices of the court. Now that the cases are commenced in the civil court, there is an increased emphasis on this line of communications.

Fourth, we will continue to publicize the issue of child support. One program which may be helpful is the creation of a "top ten most wanted" list comprised of probate cases, these individuals will be selected because they owe large amounts of money and have also attempted to avoid prosecution. In an effort to aggressively pursue these absent parents these cases should be transferred to the criminal court under C. 273 §§1 and 15. The criteria to transfer probate cases has already been developed.

Fifth, we seek to utilize the resources of the Department of Revenue to expedite the enforcement of orders and to pursue absent parents.

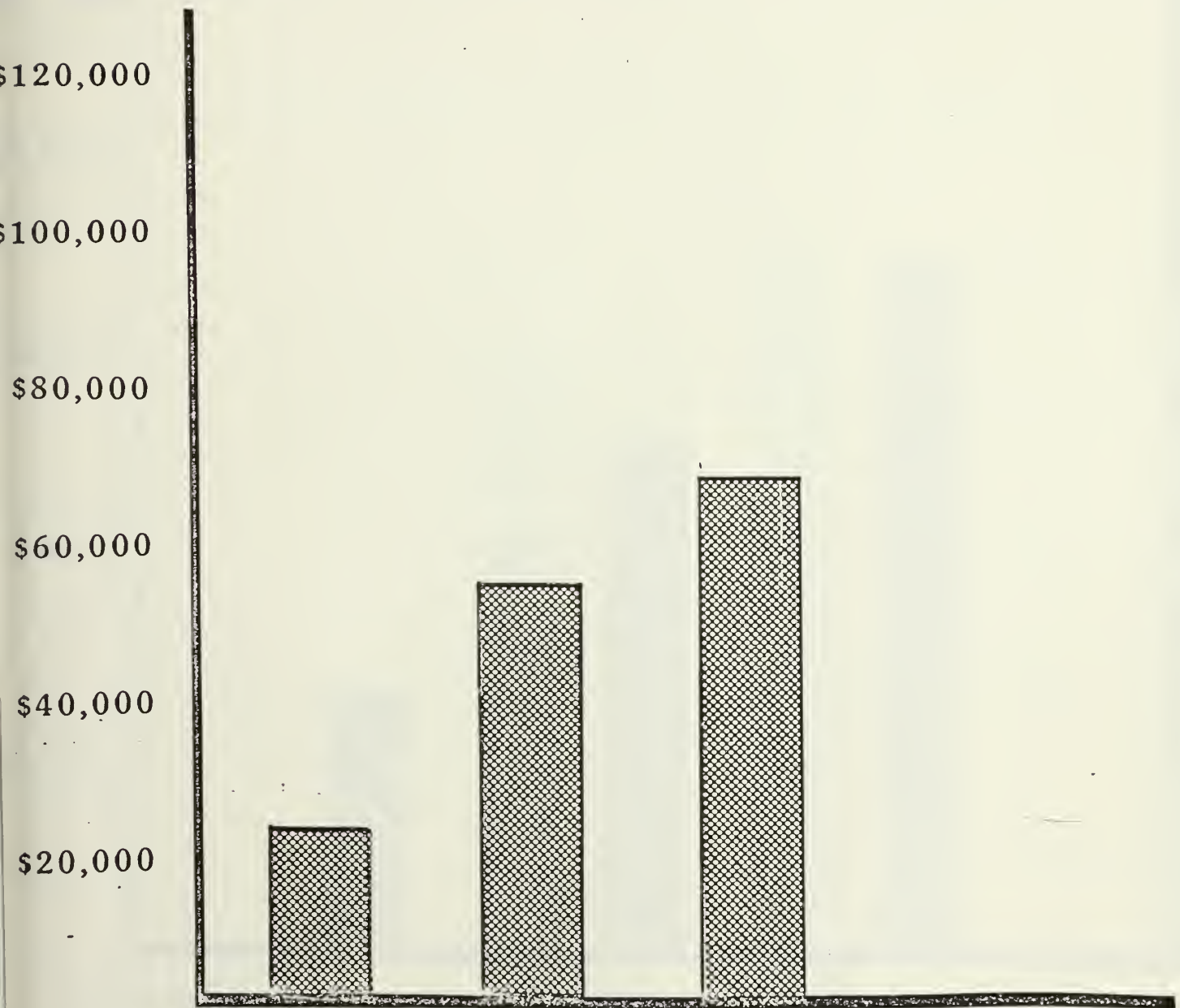
It is our hope that these programs and others like them can be developed to improve upon the Unit's performance for the coming year.



D.P.W. Collection Figures

July 1986 - June 1987

* Report is incomplete. Additional names are being reviewed



1st Quarter \$21,540 \$30,229 \$17,784

2nd Quarter \$29,713 \$24,621

3rd Quarter \$22,226 *

4th Quarter

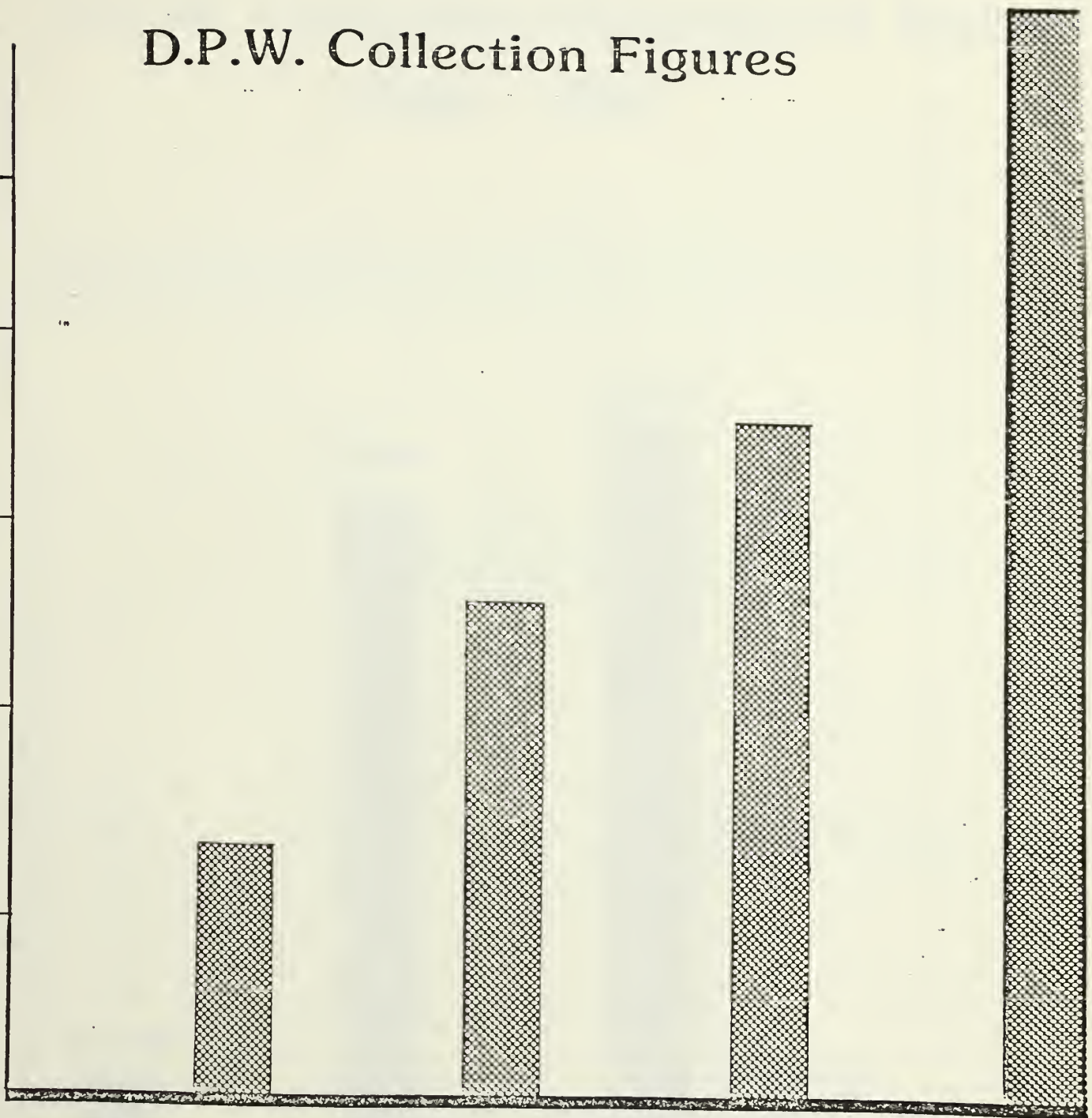
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D.P.W. Collection Figures

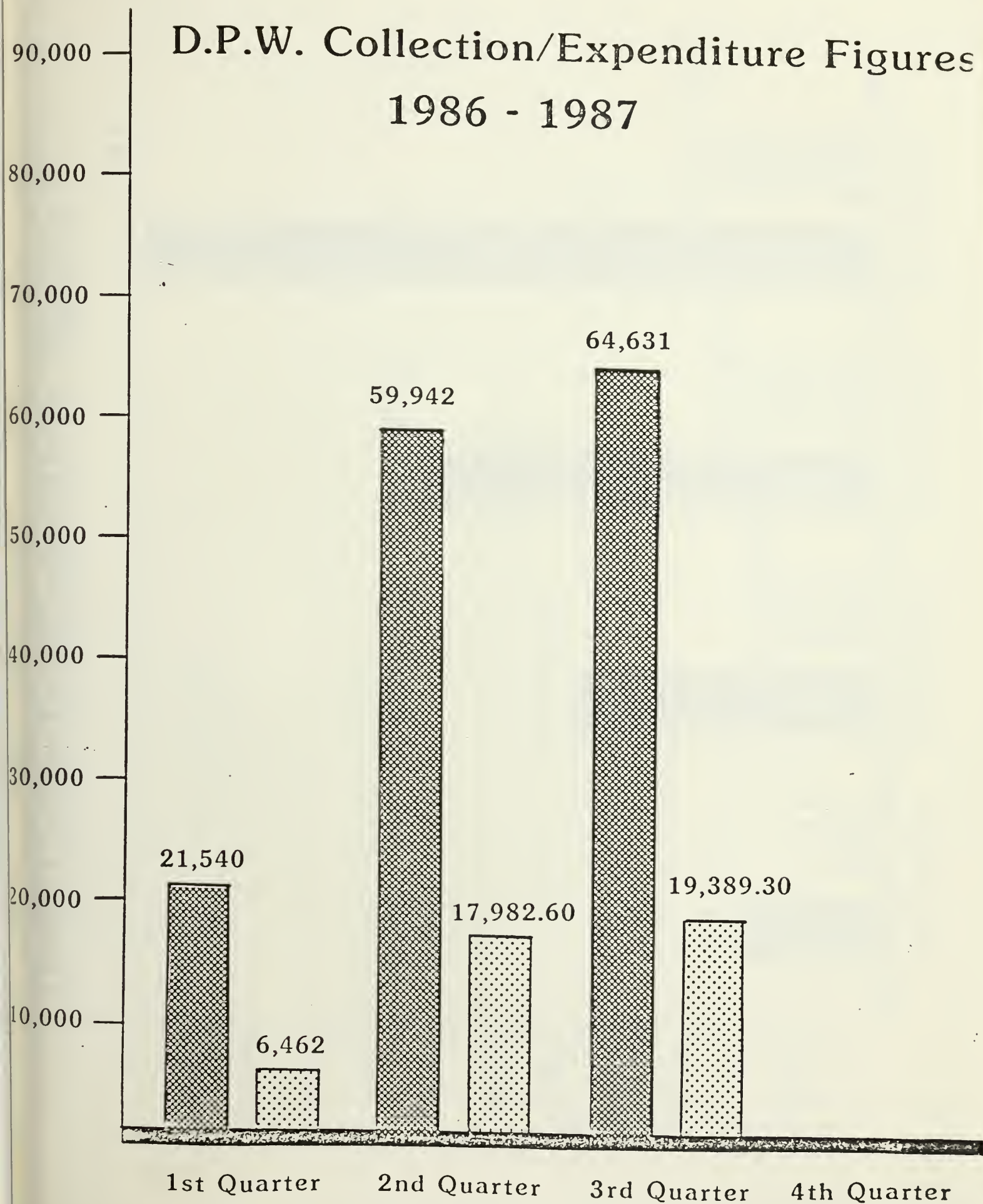
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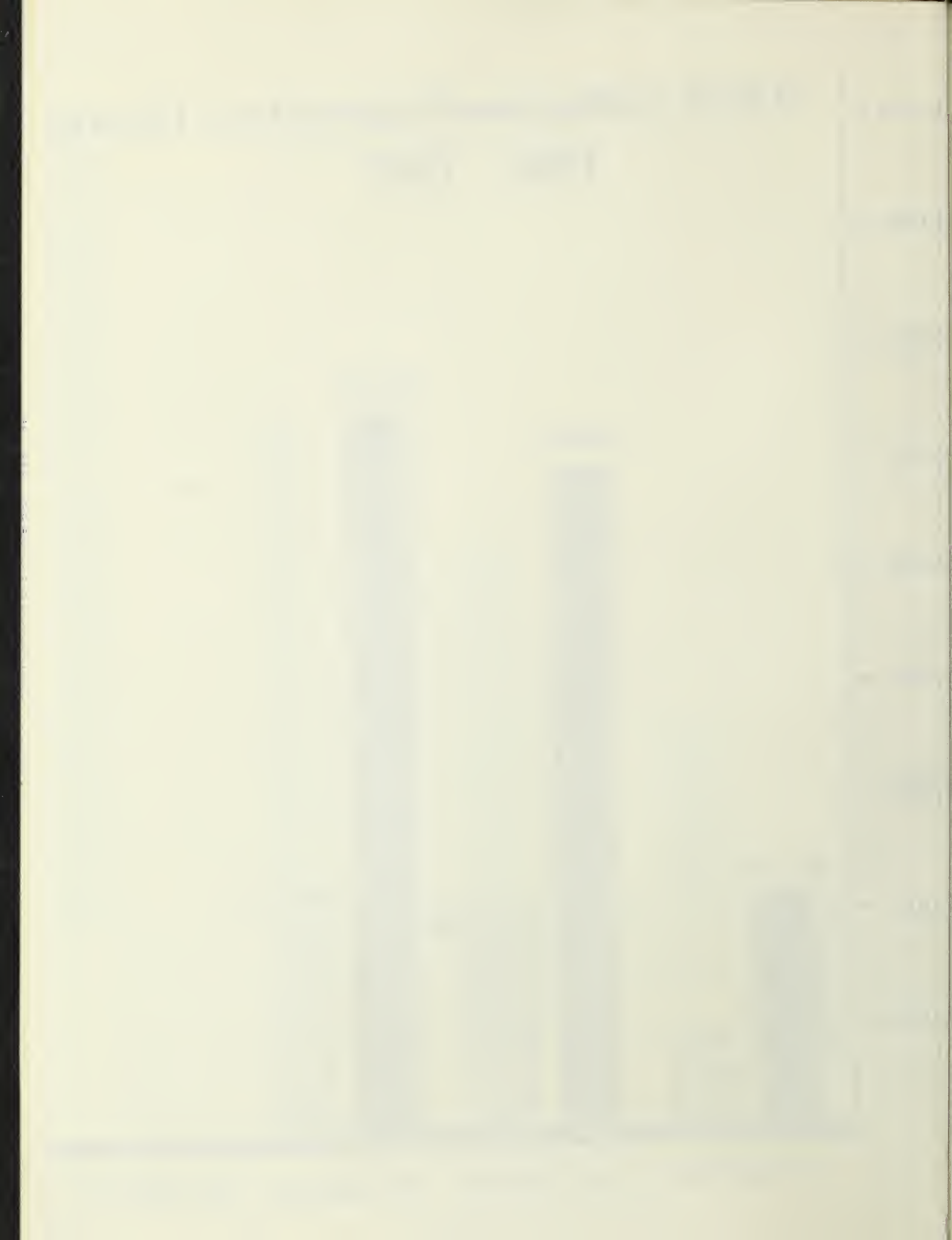


1st Quarter	\$23,158.42	\$35,499.00	\$30,087.90	\$40,261.22
2nd Quarter		\$15,441.00	\$21,743.53	\$26,172.33
3rd Quarter			\$23,963.88	\$37,504.62
4th Quarter				\$20,630.72

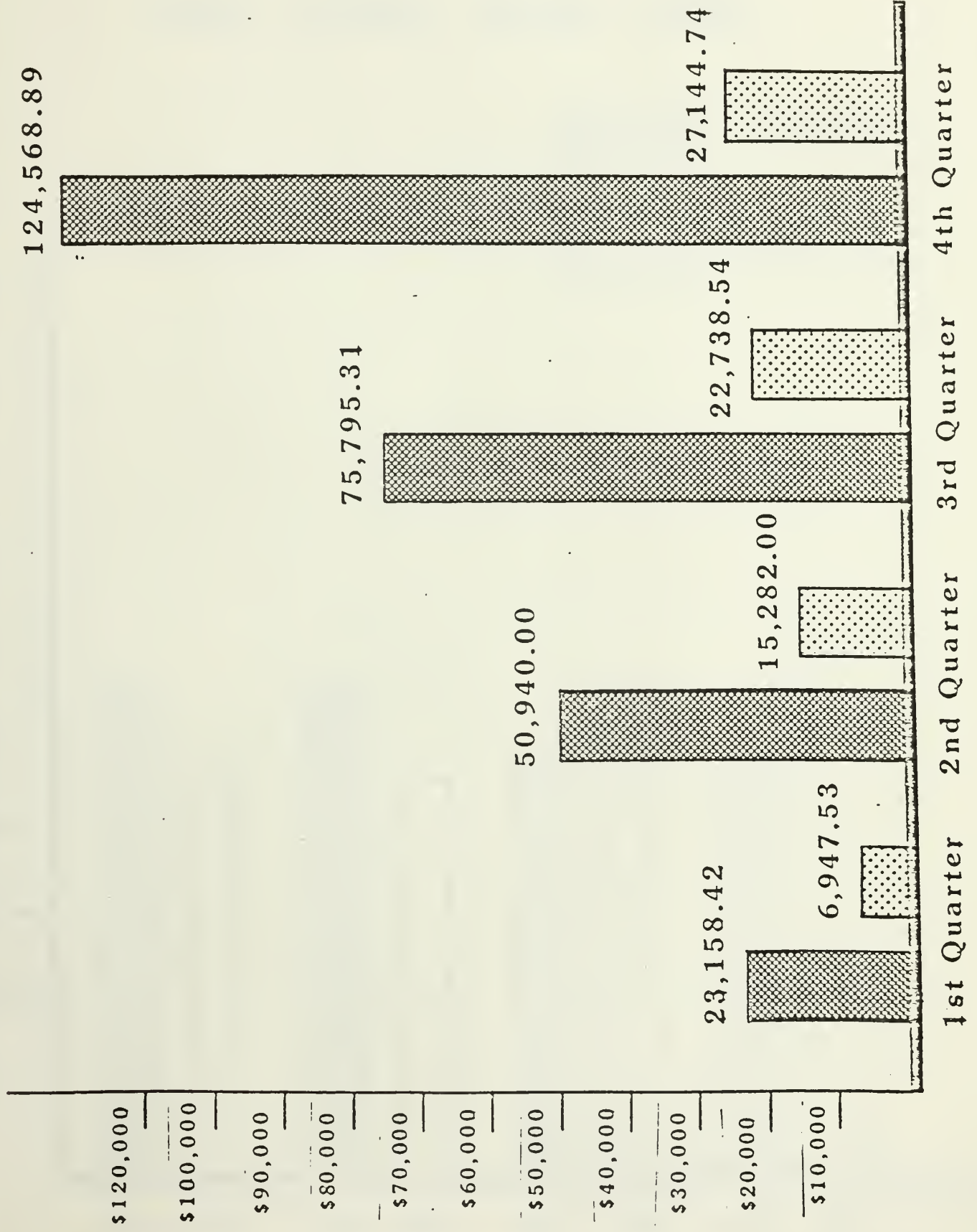
TOTAL: \$274,462.62

D.P.W. Collection/Expenditure Figures 1986 - 1987



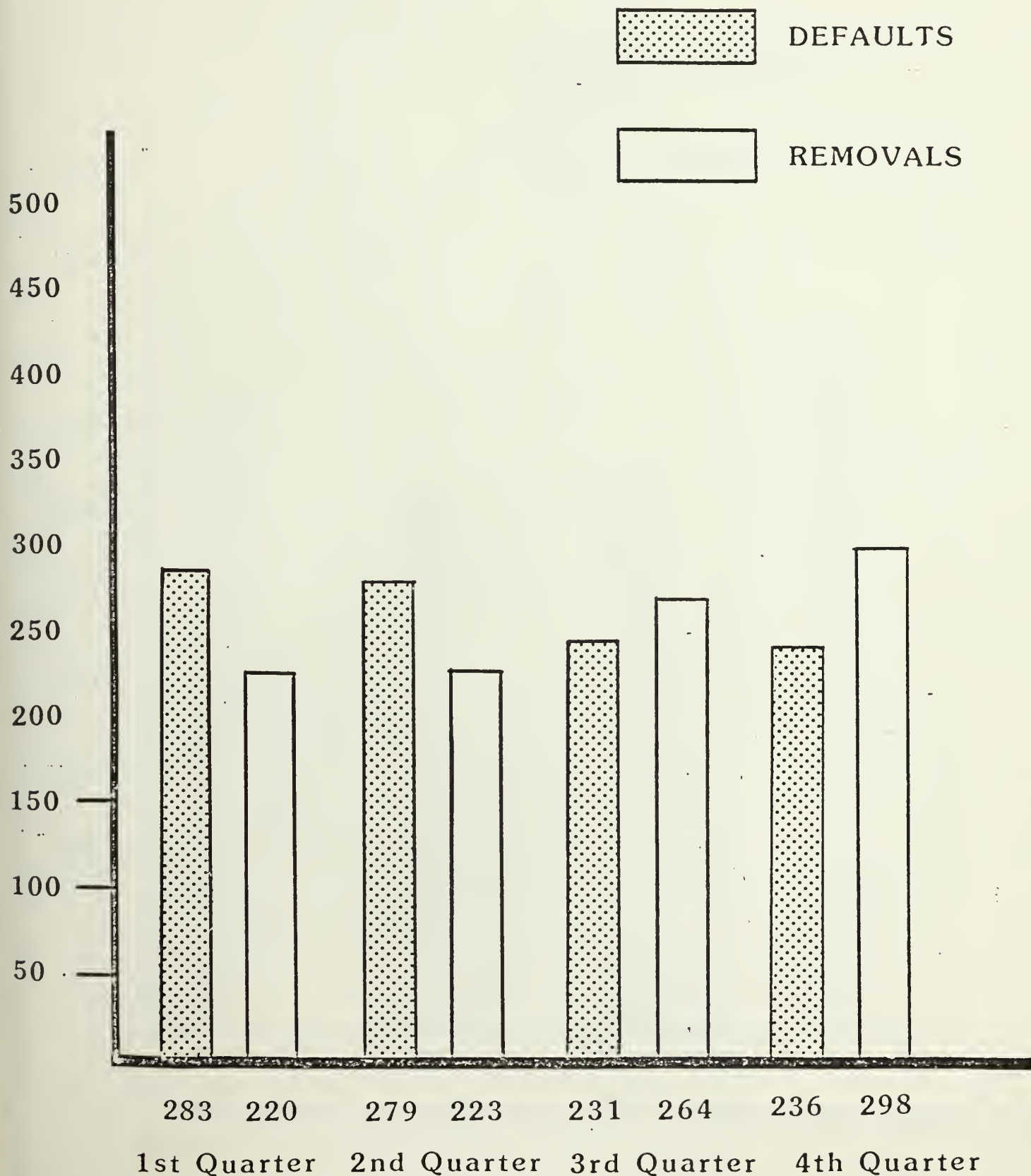


DPW Collection/Expenditure Figures



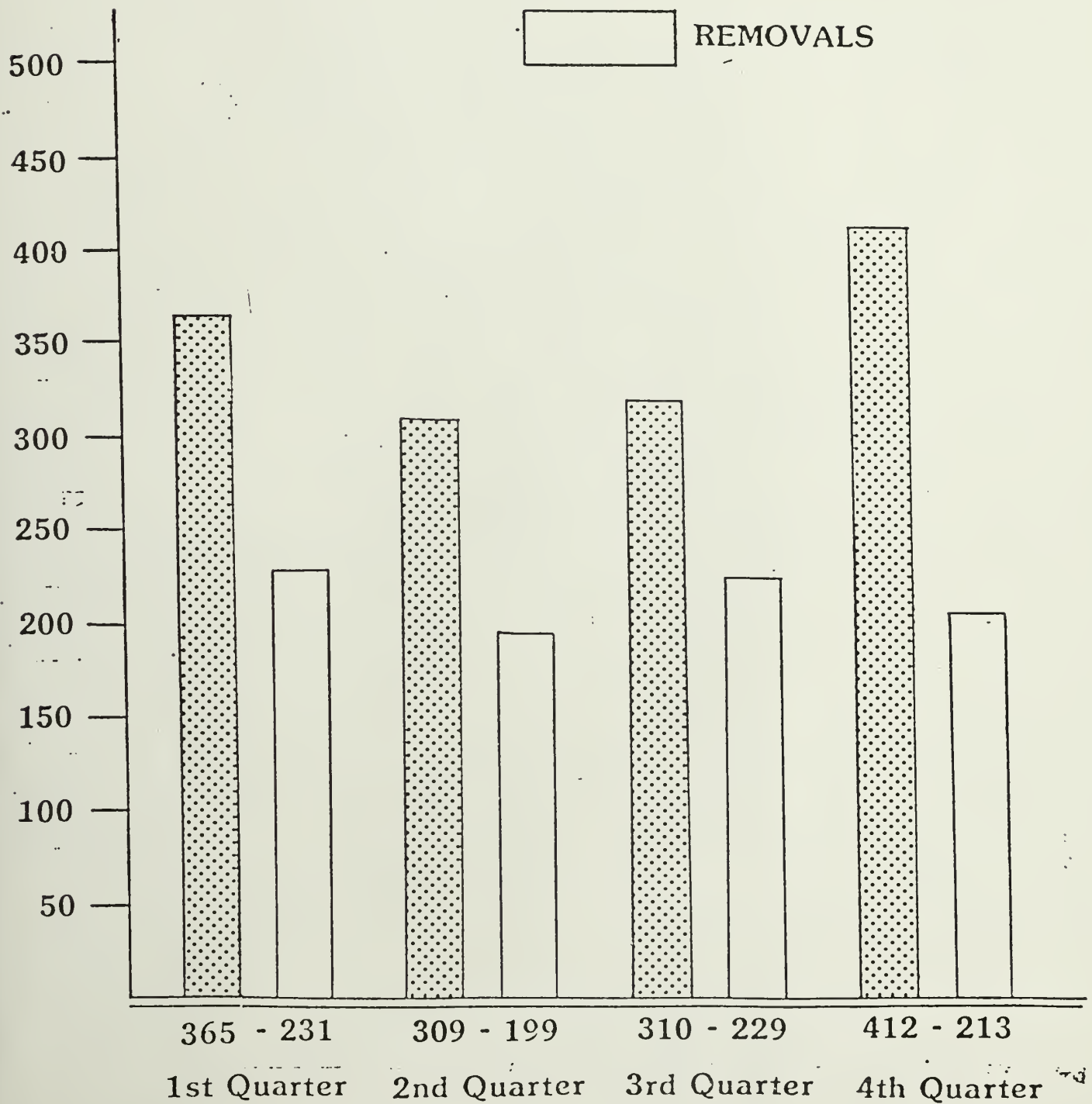
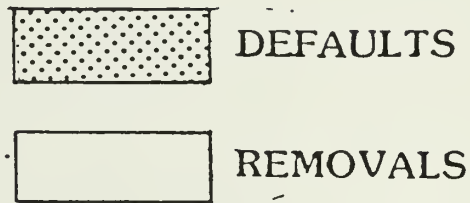
Defaults - Removals By Quarter

July, 1986 - June, 1987



Defaults - Removals By Quarter

JULY, 1985 - JUNE, 1986







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CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT REPORT

To: Scott Harshbarger
District Attorney

From: Brian Burke
Director

Date: February 26, 1988

INTRODUCTION

This report will focus upon outlining the present critical stage in the development of the District Attorney's Child Support Enforcement Unit. This format was chosen to highlight present and future issues facing the Unit. The report also includes a brief statistical review for the last two and one half years.

I. THE CRITICAL STAGE

The singular critical issue facing the Unit is the status of its contractual funding relationship with the Department of Revenue (D.O.R.). The two key operational areas of the Unit are legal and investigative; both face funding questions.

At present, the legislature funds as a line item four full time staff attorney positions to handle non-support cases. (Our office has designated a non-support attorney in each district court). The funding for these legal positions continues until July 1, 1988. At that time, the Director of our Unit believes that funding for the legal positions is likely to go to the D.O.R. for distribution.

Our investigative functions were originally funded by the Department of Welfare and are now under the umbrella of the Department of Revenue, which has rolled over the contract to this office. Our investigative services contract currently runs with D.O.R. until a new contract is approved. Negotiations are ongoing with D.O.R. to upgrade personnel salaries and to increase the number of investigator positions by three.



The contract has been stuck in the comptroller's office since the middle of December. D.O.R. is attempting to assure the comptroller that the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees will sign off on the contract. The contract should extend for at least the new fiscal year. D.O.R. has been meeting with both the House and the Senate and some movement on the contract should happen soon.

These funding questions raise the pre-eminent question of this office's continued role in a very successful program which we have created.

II. EXISTING AND PLANNED PROJECTS .

The Unit continues to fulfill its existing mandates and develop improved services.

A. Existing Projects

1. Paternity Prosecutions

Assistant District Attorneys have been appearing in civil court to represent the mother. In the one court where this practice has been discouraged, alternative arrangements have been made for representation by D.O.R. or Welfare.

2. Default/Removal Program

The program continues to rack up a respectable number of default removals even as the number of defaults continue to remain at a level 24% lower than the first full year of the program. In comparing Calendar Year 1987 to 1986 there were 311 less defaults. Even in the face of

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the reduced number of defaults there were 135 (15.25%) more removals than the previous year. The removal rate is up 35.91%. In 1987 the removal rate exceeded the 100% annual rate for the first time. The removal rate is an impressive 104.83%. The Unit averaged 85.83 default removals a month. Arrests continue to be made and favorable publicity reflects well on this office and aids deterrence.

3. Review of Probate Cases

Guidelines have been approved and circulated concerning the transfer of probate cases to the criminal court under C. 273, §1 or §15. Several cases have been commenced as criminal actions. The Director has met with Chief Probation Officer Brendan Callahan and Registrar Paul Cavanaugh and have developed a review system for probate cases. We are presently reviewing 20 probate cases with the average arrears in excess of \$6,000. These cases will be distributed to the proper courts to commence the necessary criminal action.

This particular program has already demonstrated the potential impact it could have throughout the county through the publicized arrest of a California man who owed over \$60,000 in missed child support payments.

4. Prosecution Manual

A twenty two page manual on the changes in the law, and all other information relevant to child support

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
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U.S.A.

PROFESSOR
J. H. GOLDSTEIN
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
5301 S. DICKINSON DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637
U.S.A.

DEAR PROFESSOR GOLDSTEIN:
I am writing to you to express my appreciation for the
information you have provided me regarding the
status of the project. I am very grateful for your
cooperation and assistance in this matter.

has been developed and is awaiting final review by Steve Limon. In the interim the manual has been circulated as a draft and has proven to be helpful.

5. Computer Program

As of this date the Lowell District Court child support defaults are on this office's computer and are continuously updated. The computer has proven to be very helpful in doing mass mailings and in organizing warrants.

B. Planned Projects

1. Computer Expansion

The goal of the unit is to expand the computer program to include the three courts that comprise the Lowell Region and to eventually include all the courts in this county.

2. Beefed Up Efforts of Enforcement in Selected Towns

The investigators are in the process of selecting towns within their region to work with local police to remove all the defaults in the selected town or city.

3. Targeting Out of State Cases

There are a large number of cases where the absent parent is out of state. A significant amount of these are probate cases with large arrearages.

4. Action On Stagnant Cases

After two years a number of cases in which there have been no success are starting to accrue. These cases will be reviewed to determine what action may prove to be effective,

e.g., submit to D.O.R. for parent location, postal verification, registry review, etc.

5.Pro Se Packet/Video

We envision the development of a packet or video to assist custodial parents in representing themselves in the civil court. This program will show a person how to be prepared and present her case to a judge. It will prevent this office from getting involved in the large number of cases in civil court and prevent custodial parents from having to pay attorneys' fees which they cannot afford. The Director is especially enthusiastic about the potential for this self-help educational tool.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- The arrest of a Chicago man on a felony warrant for abandonment of minor children. The absent parent owed in excess of \$200,000 in child support.

- The arrest of a former Massachusetts man who was living in California and owed over \$60,000 in child support. This was the first case transferred from probate court to the criminal court.

- 135 more default removals than the previous year.

- Defaults were down 24.22%, 311 less defaults than the previous year.
- A removal rate 104.83%, an increase of 39.91%.
- The creation of a computer program: Lowell District Court is presently on line and the program is expanding to include the whole Lowell region.
- The Unit has been responsive to the needs of individuals and the enforcement needs of D.O.R.
- It has been an effective resource for many people who were in need of information on how to proceed to obtain child support.
- It has created a process to aggressively pursue absent parents from probate court.
- Through publicized arrest it has been effective in sending a message to the public that people who neglect their legal and moral responsibilities to their families will not be tolerated.

STATISTICS

1987

	<u>Defaults</u>	<u>Removals</u>
Jan. - March	231	264
April - June	239	283
July - Sept.	294	232
Oct. - Dec.	<u>209</u>	<u>241</u>
	973	1020

Removal Rate 104.83%

1986

Jan. - March	310	229
April - June	412	213
July - Sept.	283	220
Oct. - Dec.	<u>279</u>	<u>223</u>
	1284	885

Removal Rate 68.92%

1985

Jan. - March	x	x
April - June	x	x
July - Sept.	365	239
Oct. - Dec.	<u>309</u>	<u>199</u>
	674	438

Removal Rate 64.98%

1987 v. 1986

311 less defaults in 1987 than in the previous year (24.22%).

135 more removals than the previous year.

39.91% increase in the removal rate, up from 68.92% to 104.83%.

85.83 average removals per month, an increase of 12.08 per month.

CONCLUSION

There is some obvious uncertainty surrounding future funding for the Unit's legal and investigative services. This Unit has a track record of visible success in remedying the county wide problem of non-support of families by absent non-custodial parents. Despite the uncertainty, the current negotiations with D.O.R. for increased salaries and number of investigators and planned projects such as the Pro se Packet/Video demonstrate that the Unit maintains its aggressive edge.

THEORY

The first part of the theory is the definition of the function $f(x)$.

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SCOTT HARSHBARGER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Child Support Unit Annual Report

JULY 1988 - JUNE 1989

Submitted by:

Brian Burke
Director
Child Support
Enforcement Unit



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MIDDLESEX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT

1988 - 1989

ANNUAL REPORT

This year represents the fourth complete year of operation for the Child Support Enforcement Unit. In retrospect it was the unit's most successful year comparing defaults to removals.

For the third year in a row, the unit was able to significantly improve the default to removal ratio. This year's ratio of 120.30% is an improvement of 19.13% over last years ratio of 101.26%. This is the measurement by which the unit gauges its success. It is the fourth year we have seen a significant increase over the prior year.

This year 738 absent parents who were not participating in the judicial system and who were neglecting their responsibilities to their families, were forced to confront the issue of non-support. This brings the aggregate total for four years to 3,575 default warrant removals.

For the past two years, the default referrals have always been the most difficult of defaults, the bottom of the barrel. This year it is especially true. This is due to the fact that the Department of Revenue efficiently screens most but not all of the defaults before we receive the default referral.

Although the number of referrals are down 28.24% from the prior year, the cases are more demanding resulting in more person hours per case. In addition enforcement measures are often more extensive and harsher.

The cases are so difficult they require, above standard investigations such as registry checks, postal verifications, tax checks and on site visits etc. Harsher because arrests which are usually a last resort are now utilized more than ever and the courts are more willing to incarcerate absent parents. An example of harsher sentencing was demonstrated at the Woburn District Court when three absent parents who were arrested as a result of a mini sweep were incarcerated for three to six months in the Billerica House of Correction.

The unit was able to endure despite resistance from some sources, and continued its sophisticated and aggressive methods of investigative techniques to identify, locate and apprehend absent parents who neglect their families.

This year, 613 cases were referred to the unit and undertaken by the five investigators. This brings the aggregate four year total to 3,986 cases handled by the unit.

While the default removal rate has steadily increased, the number of default referrals has also decreased.

There are several reasons for this trend. As mentioned, the Department of Revenue manages and directs the case load and they also have investigators to work on defaults through their State Police Project. They refer cases to this unit when their efforts are unsuccessful. This means they are clearing out a large percentage of defaults that in the past, we would have received.

The unit also would like to believe that because of its efforts and publicity surrounding many of its successful cases of enforcement, there has been an awareness of the problem and absent parents are accepting their child support responsibilities resulting in less defaults by non-custodial parents.

This year more than ever the unit forged ahead and continued to provide efficient and effective services for the many custodial parents in need of assistance and was able to locate and apprehend 125 more absent parents than were referred to the unit for this fiscal year. There is no doubt the overwhelming majority of these absent parents would still be neglecting their families if it were not for the efforts of this C.S.E.U.

The District Attorney's Office has always recognized child support as a priority in its long list of services it provides for the public. As long as the office is able to work out an agreement with the Department of Revenue this office will continue its aggressive, successful and very much needed service for the numerous single parents of Middlesex County.

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. It is argued that a knowledge of the past is essential for a full understanding of the present. The author then goes on to discuss the various factors which have shaped the development of the United States, including the influence of the British, the Spanish, and the French. He also discusses the role of the American people in the creation of the nation. The second part of the paper is a detailed account of the American Revolution. It begins with the outbreak of the war in 1775 and continues through the end of the war in 1783. The author describes the military and political events of the war, as well as the social and economic changes that took place. He also discusses the role of the American people in the war. The third part of the paper is a discussion of the American Constitution. It begins with a description of the Constitution and its principles. The author then discusses the various amendments to the Constitution and the role of the Supreme Court. He also discusses the relationship between the federal government and the states. The fourth part of the paper is a discussion of the American Civil War. It begins with the outbreak of the war in 1861 and continues through the end of the war in 1865. The author describes the military and political events of the war, as well as the social and economic changes that took place. He also discusses the role of the American people in the war. The fifth part of the paper is a discussion of the American Reconstruction. It begins with the end of the Civil War in 1865 and continues through the end of Reconstruction in 1877. The author describes the political and social events of Reconstruction, as well as the role of the American people. The sixth part of the paper is a discussion of the American Gilded Age. It begins with the end of Reconstruction in 1877 and continues through the end of the Gilded Age in 1900. The author describes the economic and social changes of the Gilded Age, as well as the role of the American people. The seventh part of the paper is a discussion of the American Progressive Era. It begins with the end of the Gilded Age in 1900 and continues through the end of the Progressive Era in 1920. The author describes the political and social events of the Progressive Era, as well as the role of the American people. The eighth part of the paper is a discussion of the American New Deal. It begins with the end of the Progressive Era in 1920 and continues through the end of the New Deal in 1945. The author describes the political and social events of the New Deal, as well as the role of the American people. The ninth part of the paper is a discussion of the American Cold War. It begins with the end of the New Deal in 1945 and continues through the end of the Cold War in 1991. The author describes the political and social events of the Cold War, as well as the role of the American people. The tenth part of the paper is a discussion of the American present. It begins with the end of the Cold War in 1991 and continues through the present. The author describes the political and social events of the present, as well as the role of the American people.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- * The arrest of a New Hampshire man who owed the Commonwealth \$15,000 and avoided being renditioned by paying D.O.R. the full \$15,000 with two cashiers checks.
- * The arrest and rendition of absent parents from the following states: California, New York, New Hampshire, and Florida.
- * The unit presently has an absent parent incarcerated in Florida who has not paid child support for two children in over ten years and owes the custodial parent \$7,838 in arrearage. Negotiations are continuing and the absent parent has paid the custodial parent a sum of \$2,000 in an attempt to prevent being renditioned.
- * The addition of two D.O.R. investigators to the unit.
- * The unit managed 613 new default referrals.
- * The unit successfully removed 738 defaults warrants for a default removal ratio of 120.30%. 125 more removals than defaults.
- * A significant increase of 19.13% in the default removal ratio over the previous year.

- * The completion of expanding the computer program to include all the courts within the county.
- * The completion of the Prosecutor's Manuel to assist assistant district attorney's in their efforts to understand and prosecute child support cases.
- * The unit continued to reach out to custodial parents by speaking to custodial parents at meetings with organizations such as Parents Without Partners.
- * Continued to be an effective resource for many people who were in need of information on how to proceed to obtain needed child support.
- * The successful continuation of transferring probate cases to criminal court for effective enforcement results.

COMPUTER EXPANSION

Last year the unit reported that the expansion of the computer program was number one on its list of priorities for planned projects.

"The goal of the unit is to expand the computer program to include the three courts that comprise the Lowell Region and to eventually include all the courts in the county.

Child Support Enforcement Report 1988.

The Court is now on line with the computer throughout the county. This is attributed to the hard work of the personnel at M.I.S. to train the investigators and the hard work of the investigators to stick with such grunt work to get the job done. As a result, all cases referred to the unit are stored in the computer and the information is readily accessible wherever an office terminal is on line.

The computer program has proven to be very helpful in doing mass mailings, organizing warrants by police departments and towns, and focusing the unit's efforts in areas where there are disproportionately high number of defaults from the rest of the county.

The computer will continue to be a major asset to the unit's enforcement efforts.

ANNUAL STATISTICS 1988-1989

	<u>Defaults</u>	<u>Removals</u>
July-September	218	250
October-December	192	197
January-March	114	185
April-June	<u>89</u>	<u>106</u>
Total	613	738

DEFAULT REMOVAL RATIO 120.34%

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Unit will continue to forge ahead in an aggressive manner to locate the many absent parents who are neglecting their legal and moral responsibility to their parents.

A. Computer Program

The goal of the Unit will be to continuously update the computer and use the organized information for analysis when approaching enforcement and apprehension of defaulters.

B. Enforcement In Selected Towns

Some cities and towns within the county continue to have a large volume of defaults such as Lowell. These areas will continue to be the focus of aggressive enforcement to reduce the number of defaults and to get the word out that absent parents will be brought to justice.

C. Small Sweeps

The unit will continue to target problem areas and serve several warrants in a short period of time covering three to four towns at a time.

The results of the last sweep on August 31, 1989. Twelve warrants served in two towns. Three arrests were made and two individuals turned themselves into authorities as a result of the unit's efforts.



D. Targeting Out of State Cases

There continues to be a large number of cases where the absent parent is out of state. The unit will continue to make arrest out of state absent parents as long as D.O.R. or the district attorney's office approves funds for rendition.

E. Pro Se Packet/Video

Last year the unit identified a large number of custodial parents who were not waiting for D.O.R. to act on their Non AFDC cases. These women pursued their cases pro se. To assist such custodial parents in representing themselves in civil court, this program will acclimate the individuals to the court room environment and will show a person how to prepare and present their case in a court of law.

It will prevent this office from getting involved in the large number of cases in civil court and prevent custodial parents from having to pay expensive attorney's fees which they obviously cannot afford.

Because of last years budget and bureaucratic constraints the unit was unable to bring the concept to fruition. However, it will continue to be a priority of the unit when and if the budget will allow.



Middlesex County District Attorney's Office

Child Support Enforcement Unit

Collection Figures

July 1988 - October 1988

In an effort to stop the termination of the program, the following financial information was compiled by this office in an attempt to demonstrate to DOR the financial benefits of continuing the program. The following information was provided by the probation departments of the respective district courts of Middlesex County. The financial figures related to the default removals attributed to this program's efforts used to be calculated by the Department of Public Welfare. DPW no longer compiles this information because this unit's contractual agreement (ISA) is with the Department of Revenue. This agreement has been in effect since April of 1987.

The financial figures are not compiled as a routine task of this office. It is a tedious and time consuming process which detracts from the program's primary purpose of locating, apprehending and prosecuting absent parents.

The figures represent the first four months of the Fiscal Year 1989, July - October.

Please note, the collection figures are much higher. Unfortunately, several probation departments were not able to provide information for specific months for reasons beyond our control. It was also determined that it would be unnecessary to complete the



information for this report because the information was helpful during negotiations last fall and the need to keep the investigators out on the street is overwhelming.

The information is presented in the following manner: First, the total number of default removals for the months of July through October 1988. Second, the total number of defaults removed for the same time period in which defaulters have made child support payments. There are numerous reasons why individuals do not start paying immediately. Long continuances, recitivism with defaulting, and the need to adjudicate paternity before payments commence to name a few.

Accompanying the total number of defaults removed is the total amount of child support payments made to the probation departments. Please note this figure is much higher because several courts did not provide information for all four months.

Third, is the number of defaults removed that the probation departments do not have records of child support payments.

Total number of defaults removed 310.

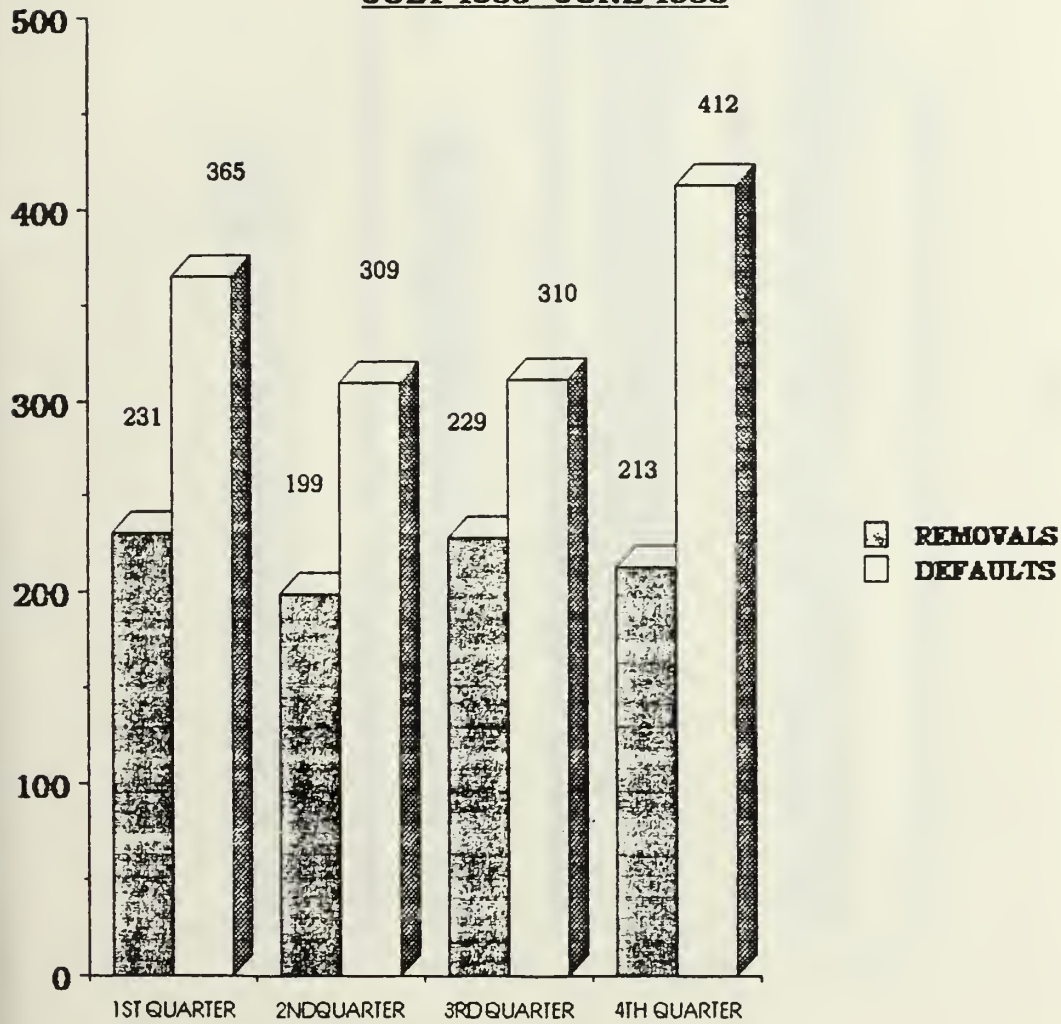
Out of 310 defaults removed 120 paid a total of \$124, 123 to the probation departments. (These two underlined figures are actually much higher.)

As explained above, there are no records at this time for 190 cases.



DEFAULTS-REMOVALSBYQUARTER

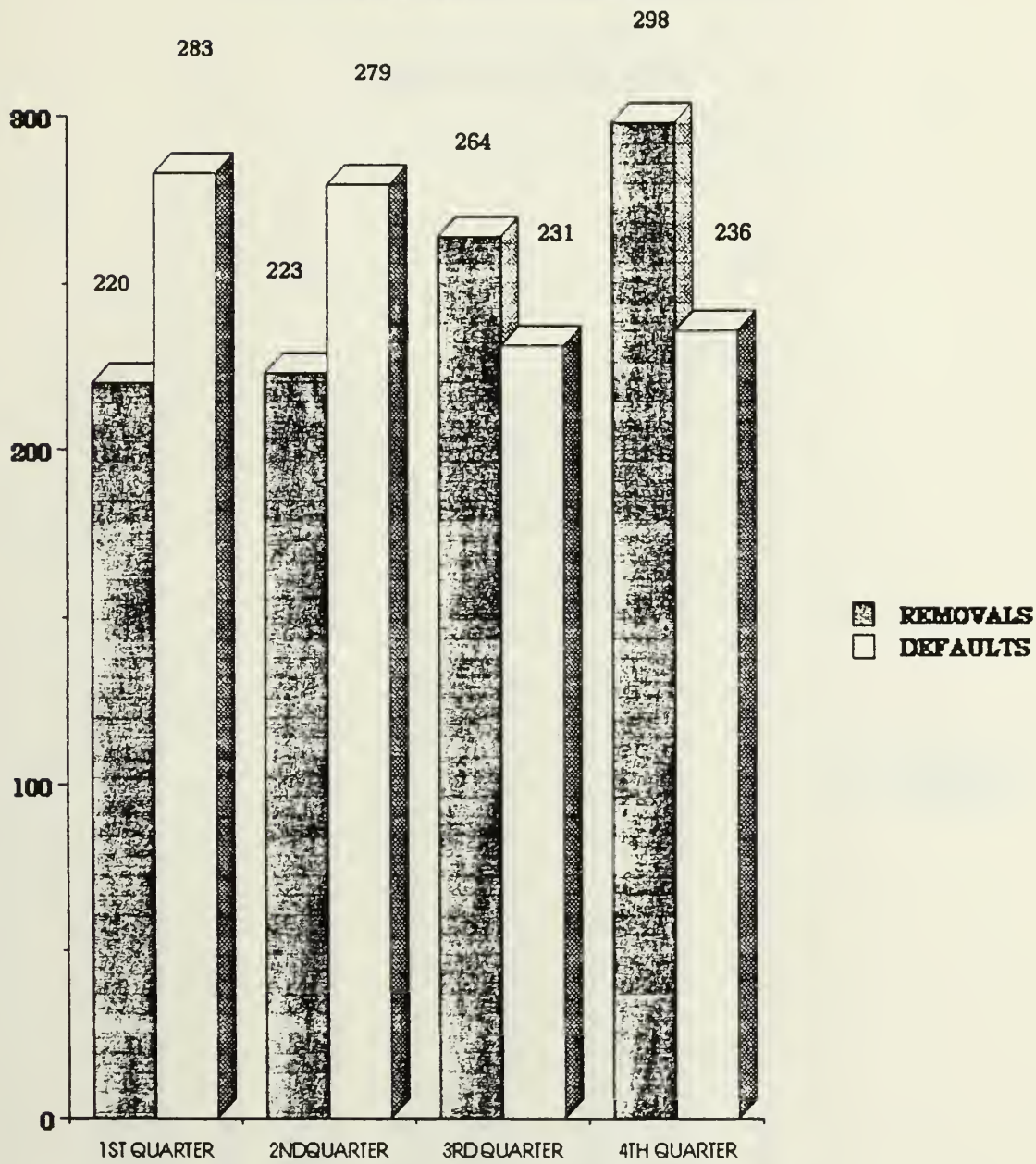
JULY 1985 - JUNE 1986





DEFAULTS-REMOVALS BY QUARTER

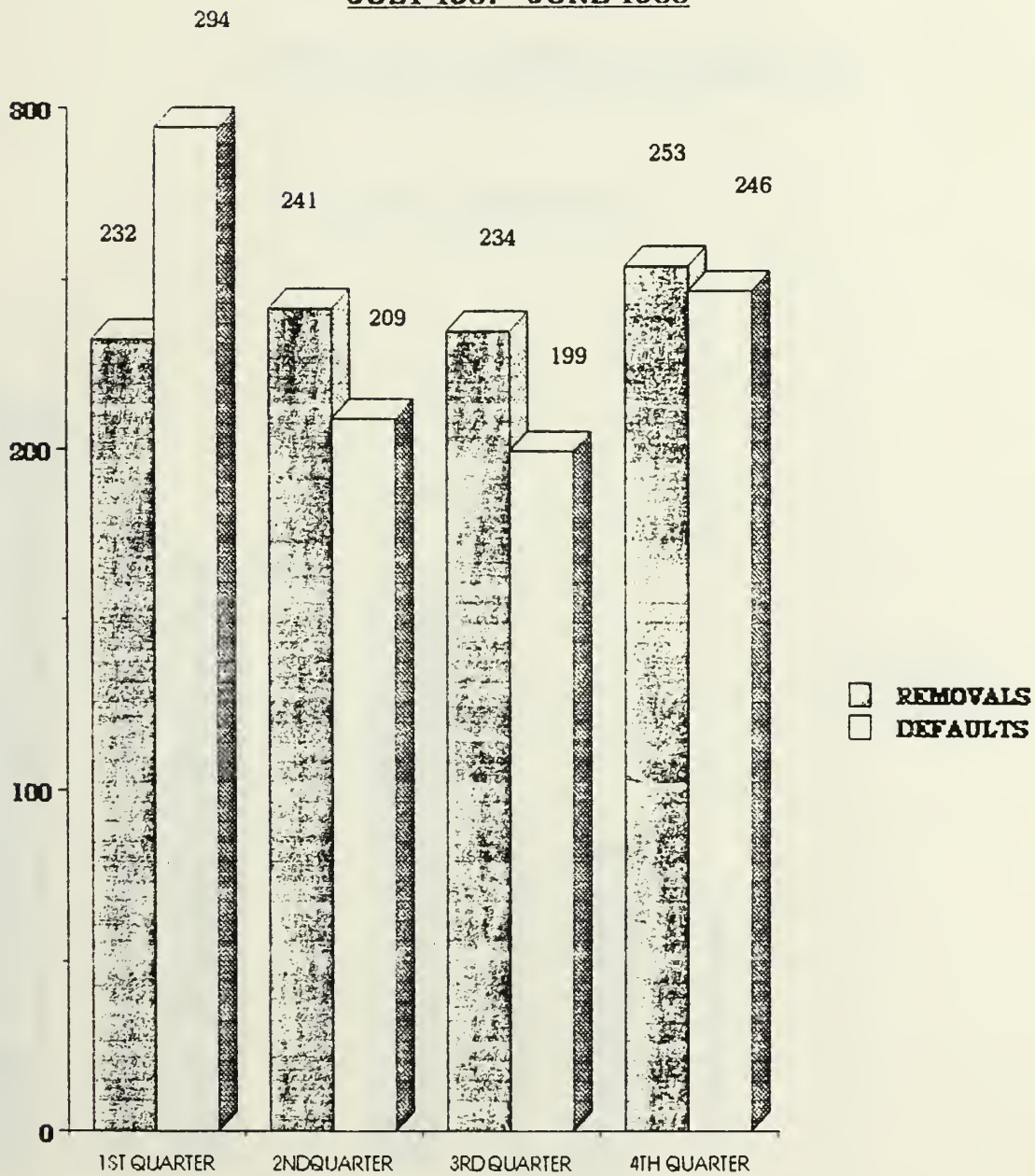
JULY 1986 - JUNE 1987





DEFAULTS-REMOVALS BY QUARTER

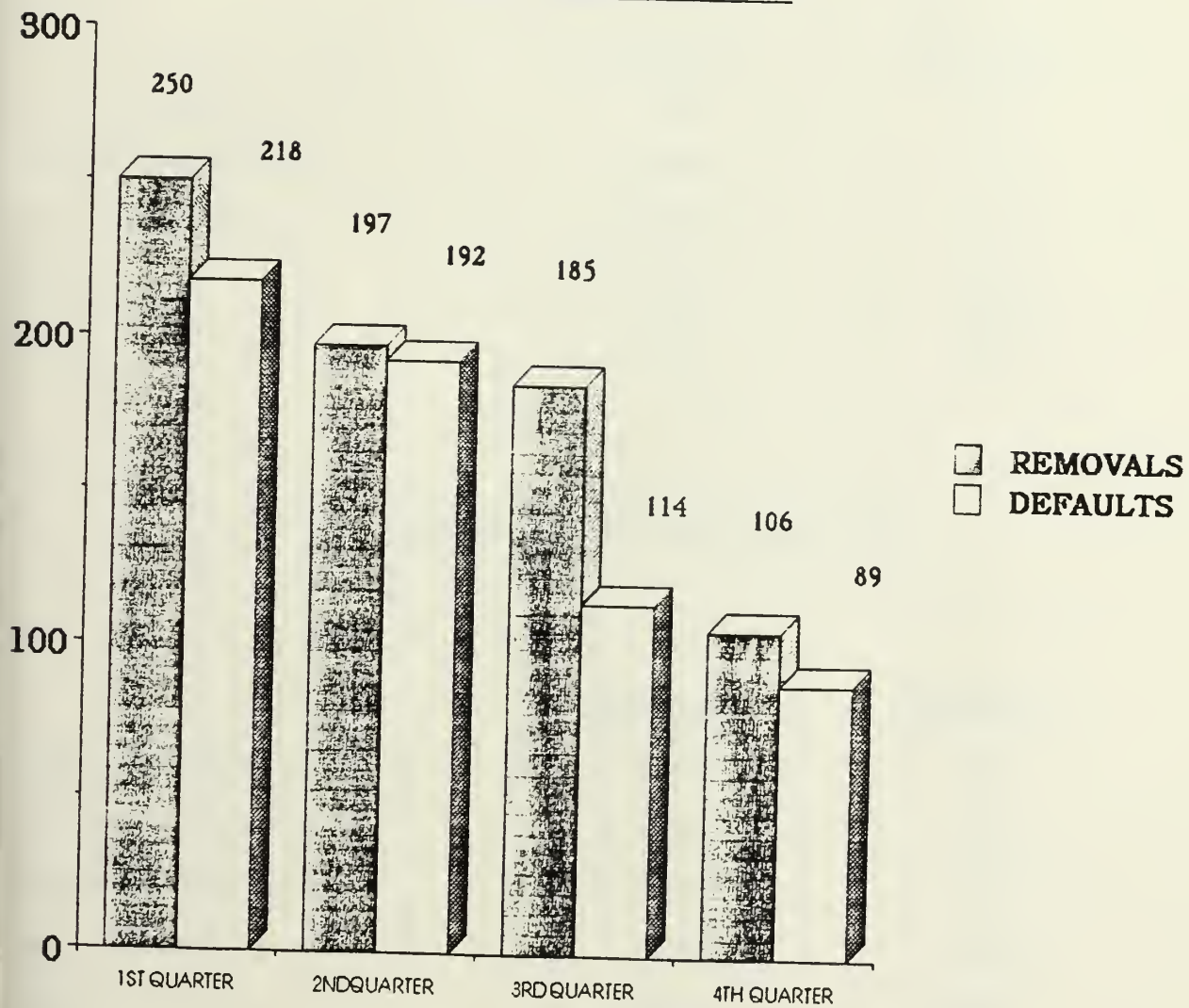
JULY 1987 - JUNE 1988





DEFAULTS - REMOVALS BY QUARTER

JULY 1988 - JUNE 1989





MIDDLESEX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S
CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT

ANNUAL STATISTICS 1985-1986

	<u>Defaults</u>	<u>Removals</u>
July-September	365	231
October-December	309	199
January-March	310	229
April-June	<u>412</u>	<u>213</u>
Total	1,396	872

ANNUAL STATISTICS 1986-1987

	<u>Defaults</u>	<u>Removals</u>
July-September	283	220
October-December	279	223
January-March	231	264
April-June	<u>236</u>	<u>298</u>
Total	1,029	1,005

ANNUAL STATISTICS 1987-1988

	<u>Defaults</u>	<u>Removals</u>
July-September	294	232
October-December	209	241
January-March	199	234
April-June	<u>246</u>	<u>253</u>
Total	948	960

ANNUAL STATISTICS 1988-1989

	<u>Defaults</u>	<u>Removals</u>
July-September	218	250
October-December	192	197
January-March	114	185
April-June	<u>89</u>	<u>206</u>
Total	613	738

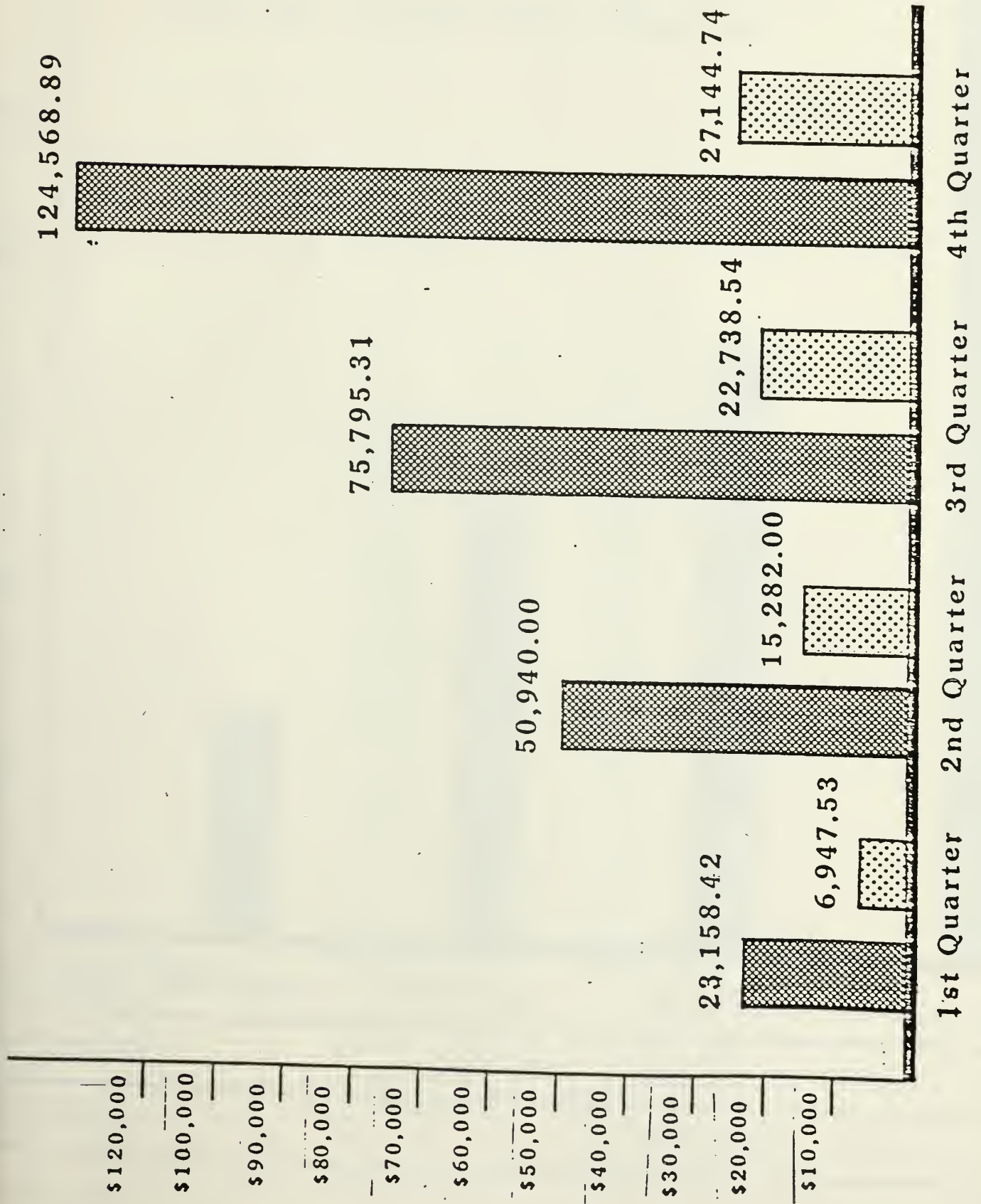


DEFAULT REMOVAL RATIO BY FISCAL YEAR

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DEFAULTS</u>	<u>REMOVALS</u>		<u>RATIO</u>
1985 - 1986	1,396	872	=	62.46%
1986 - 1987	1,029	1,005	=	97.66%
1987 - 1988	949	960	=	101.26%
1988 - 1989	613	738	=	120.39%

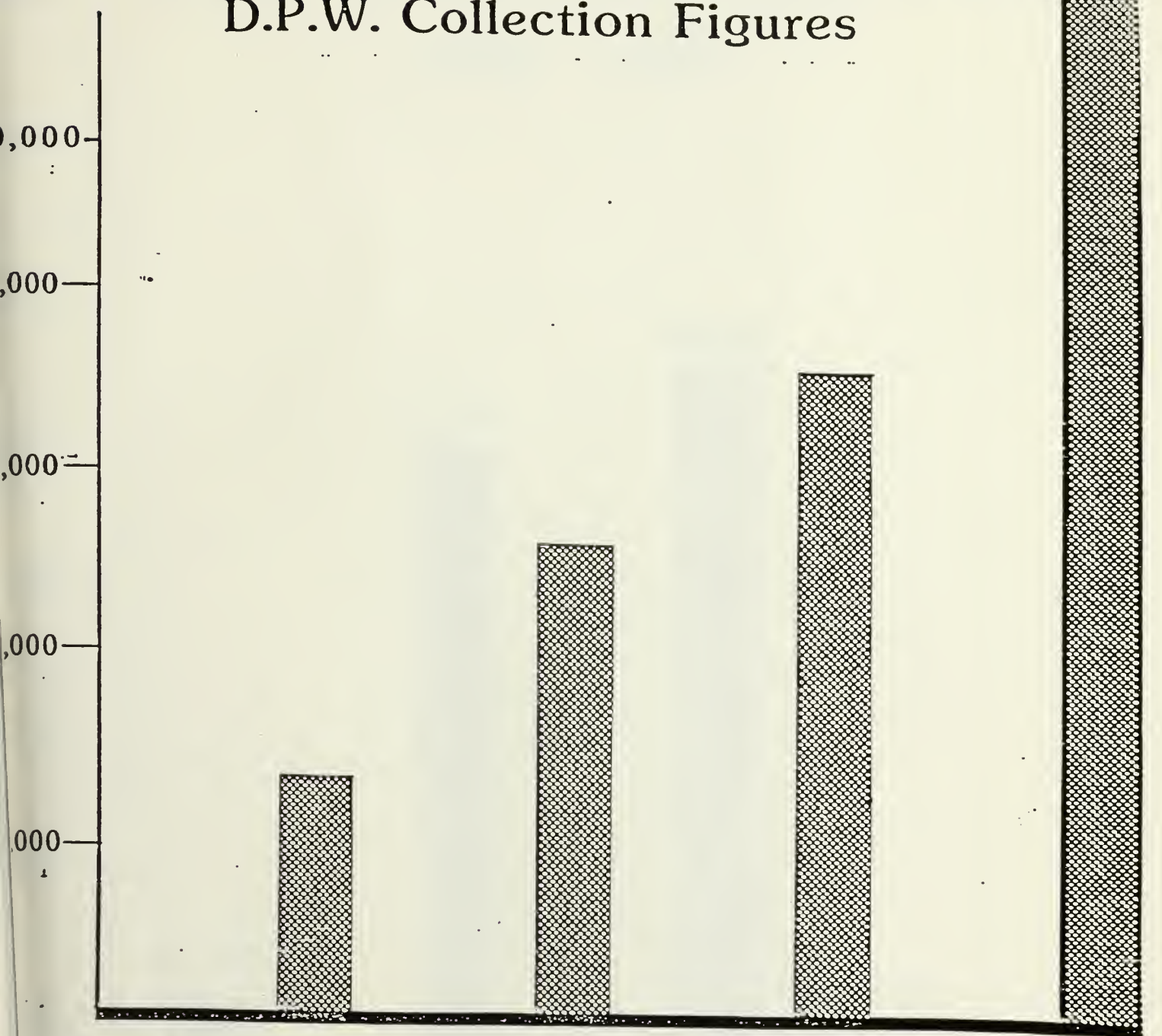


Dr W Collection/Expenditure Figures





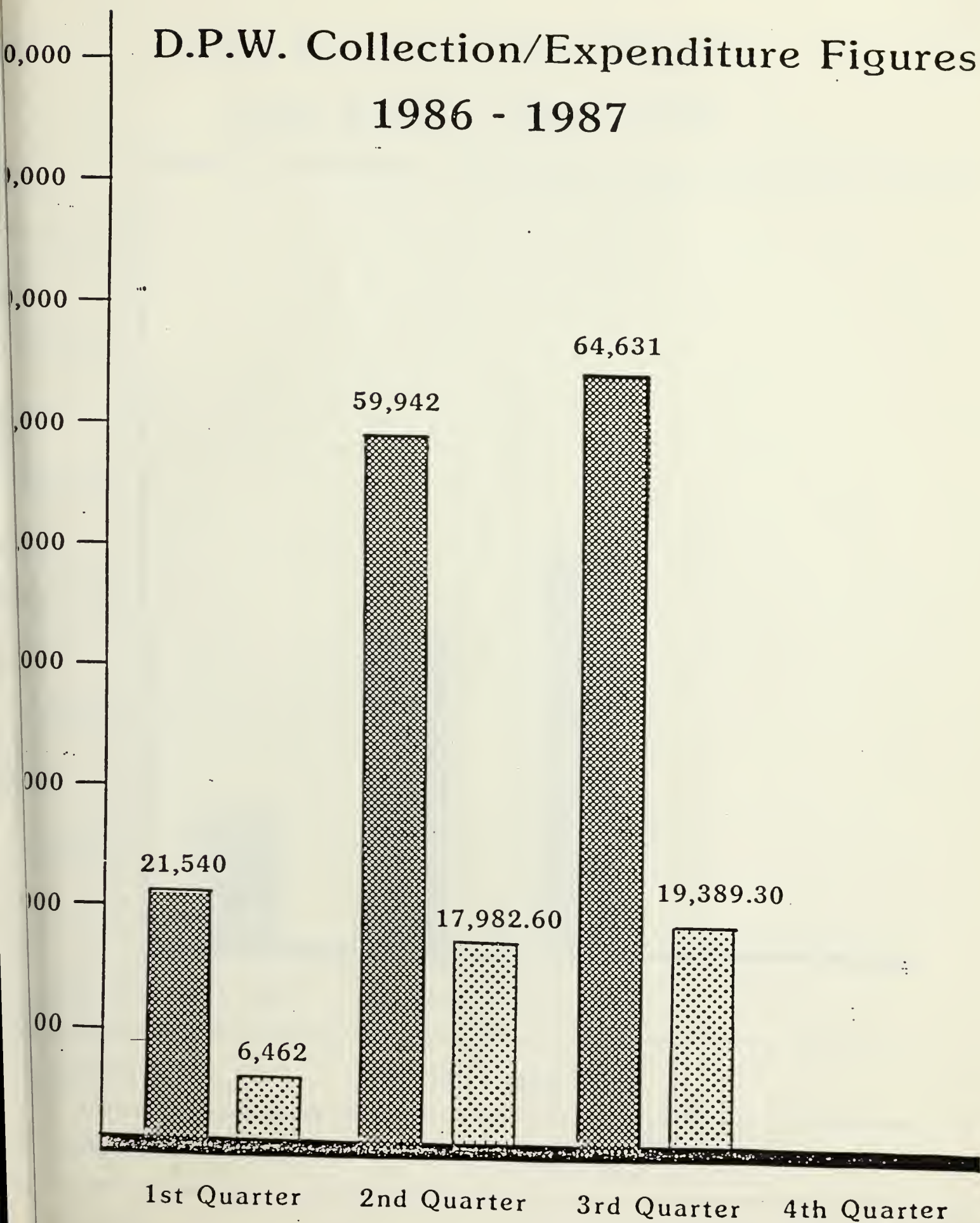
D.P.W. Collection Figures

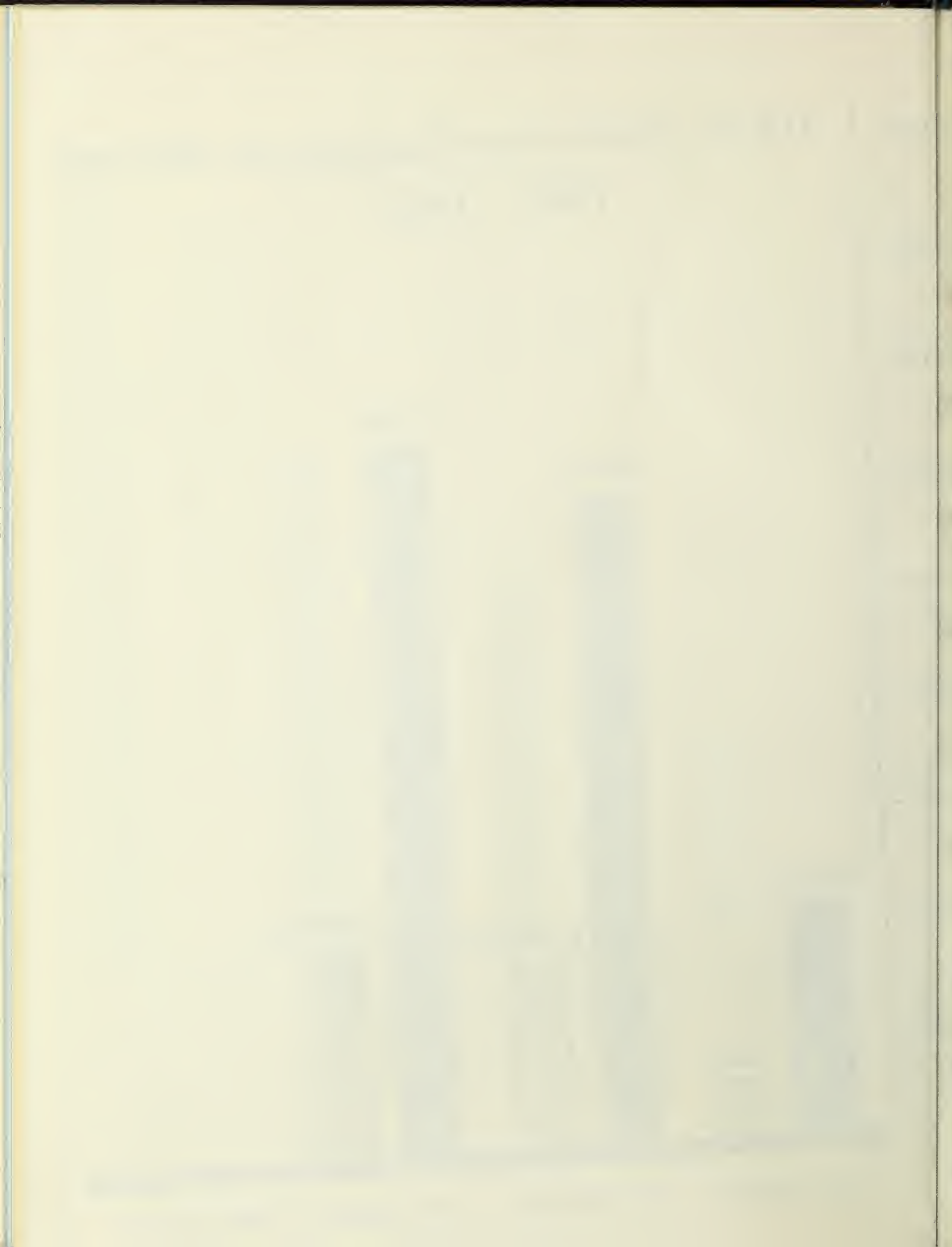


1st Quarter	\$23,158.42	\$35,499.00	\$30,087.90	\$40,261.22
2nd Quarter		\$15,441.00	\$21,743.53	\$26,172.33
3rd Quarter			\$23,963.88	\$37,504.62
4th Quarter				\$20,630.72

TOTAL: \$274,462.62

D.P.W. Collection/Expenditure Figures 1986 - 1987

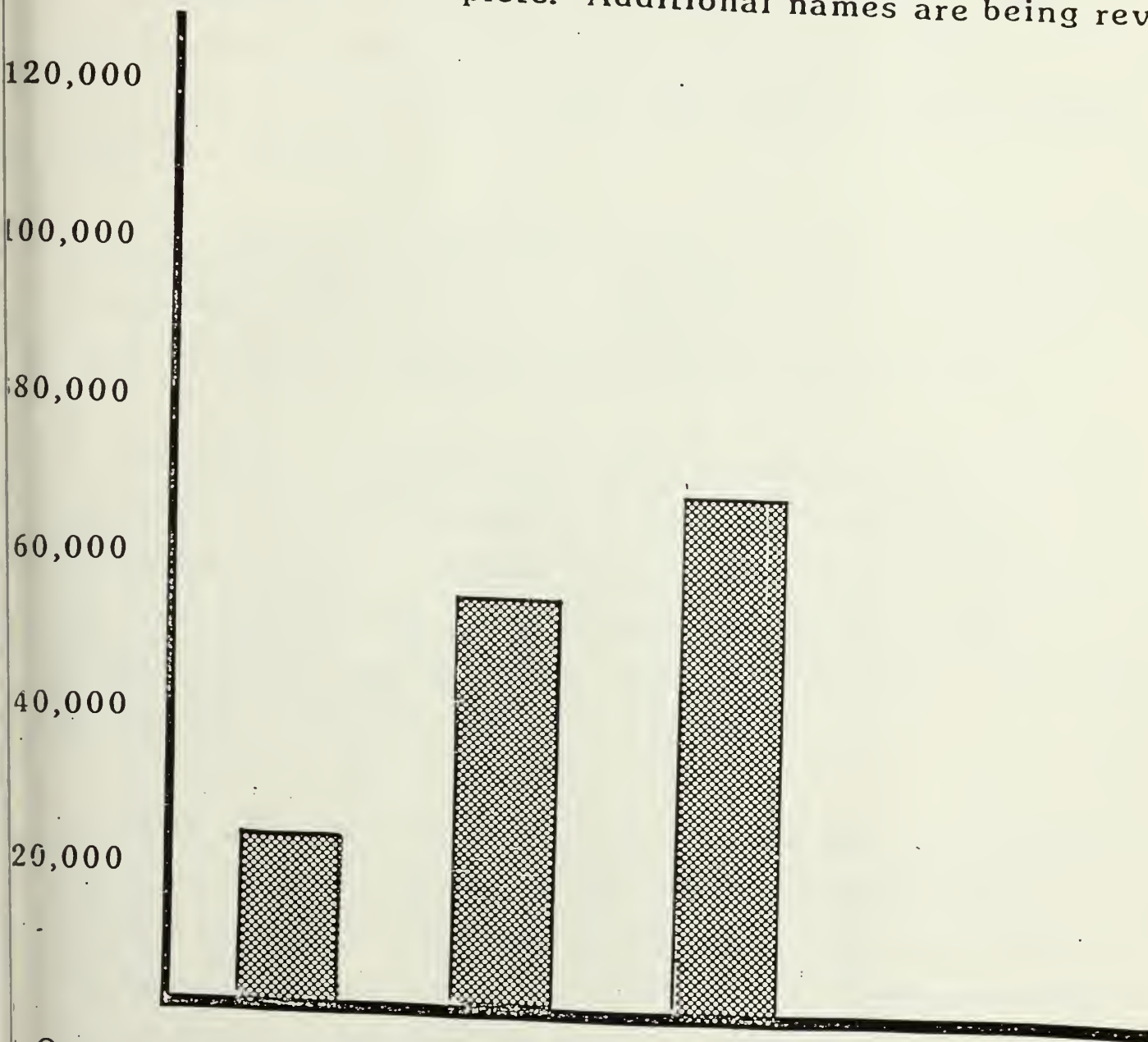




D.P.W. Collection Figures

July 1986 - June 1987

* Report is incomplete. Additional names are being reviewed



1st Quarter \$21,540 \$30,229 \$17,784

2nd Quarter \$29,713 \$24,621

3rd Quarter \$22,226 *

4th Quarter

CONCLUSION

For the third consecutive year the unit succeeded in improving upon the default removal ratio and actually located and/or apprehended 125 more absent parents than the total number of cases referred to the unit.

This success is directly attributed to the corps of investigators, support staff, attorneys and administrators who are on the front lines and are truly committed to the success of the program.

The office is optimistic that an agreement can be reached with the Department of Revenue that will ensure funding for the next fiscal year. With an agreement the unit is certain it will build upon the impressive results of the past four years, implement creative programs such as the pro se packet/video and be successful in the unit's aggressive enforcement efforts.

There is no doubt the services the unit provides had a positive impact on the single parent families throughout Middlesex County. The District Attorney's Office and the Department of Revenue working together had been successful and effective. It is hoped this working relationship will continue resulting in aiding the children of single parent families of Middlesex County.

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